



# Sahtu Land Use Planning Board

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February 17, 2011

To: Distribution List

## **Re: Public Hearing Update**

Dear Sirs and Madams,

As you know from previous updates, the Public Hearing on Draft 3 of the Sahtu Land Use Plan, previously scheduled for November 23-25, 2010 in Norman Wells was postponed in response to requests from the Sahtu Secretariat Incorporated, Tulita and Norman Wells organizations. This letter is to update you on recent activities and the steps we are taking to move us towards the Hearing and completion of the Plan.

First, the Board wishes to clarify an important point. The written comments submitted by INAC, the GNWT and the K'asho Gotine Lands Corporation all highlighted a lack of clarity in Draft 3 regarding the bodies responsible to implement the Plan on behalf of the "Sahtu First Nation" under s. 46(1) of the MVRMA when carrying out their powers. The intention is to identify SSI and Sahtu District Land Corporations as having this responsibility, whether implementing a Conformity Requirement or carrying out an Action within their powers. In particular, the intention is to identify Sahtu District Land Corporations as responsible under the MVRMA to implement Conformity Requirements when consenting to the use of Sahtu lands owned by them, or when granting interests in those lands, such as leases, that include rights of land use. That intention is expressed in, for example, the definition of "Conformity Requirement" in Draft 3, but Chapter 7 contains text implying, incorrectly, that only regulators are responsible to implement Conformity Requirements on Sahtu lands by means of the authorizations that regulators issue under federal or territorial laws. Wording will be corrected in the Final Draft Plan that the Board adopts and submits for approval. You will have the opportunity to comment further on this topic at the Hearing, in the light of this clarification.

Since its last letter, the Board held a meeting on January 6-7, 2011 in Tulita with the Tulita District organizations to work through zoning questions with them. This meeting resulted in the District scheduling further internal meetings so that it could consult with its membership. These meetings will wrap up in late February. A Shuhtagot'ine Néné Working Group Meeting is also scheduled for Feb 23-24 in Tulita during which some of these questions are expected to be resolved. The Board expects to receive final input from the Tulita District on their proposed zone changes shortly after these meetings. The SLUPB's next Board meeting is scheduled for mid March, at which time it expects to set the date of the Public Hearing. We will announce the new Hearing dates and send out final correspondence regarding the Hearing following that meeting.

In addition to the work with the Tulita District, the Board has used this time to follow up with many of its planning partners to answer questions, seek clarification on comments, learn more about the outstanding issues, and explore options to address the comments received. Meetings



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have been held with the K'asho Got'ine District, INAC, the GNWT, ENGOs and the PAS Science Team. Summary notes of all meetings are available for review on the Board's website under the Public Comments section at <http://www.sahtulanduseplan.org/website/web-content/index.html>.

The Board is not making any decisions at these meetings. No decisions on Plan revisions will be made until after the Public Hearing. Where it was clear that the Board required further information or clarification, it has asked that follow-up comments be submitted. Some additional comments have already come in and others are expected by February 25<sup>th</sup>. All of these will be available on the Board's website.

In summary, the Board will be sending out further information on the Public Hearing following its next meeting in late March. We thank you for your participation in the planning process. If you have questions or concerns, please contact Heidi Wiebe, the Plan Development Lead, at [heidi.wiebe@shaw.ca](mailto:heidi.wiebe@shaw.ca) or (403) 984-3916.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Judith Wright-Bird".

Judith Wright-Bird, Chairperson  
Sahtu Land Use Planning Board